



**MAIN LIBRARY  
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
115 West C Street  
Newton, NC 28658**

CONTACT: Tammy Wilson, Public Information Officer  
828-465-8661 [twilsoncatawbacountync.gov](mailto:twilsoncatawbacountync.gov)

## **Mitford's coming to Newton**

**By Tammy Wilson Public Information Officer  
Catawba County Library System**

NEWTON—Jan Karon's Mitford novels have been favorites for more than 15 years. If you haven't "visited" the Mitford village, Catawba County Library has multiple copies available for free checkout including her just-released *In the Company of Others*.

Now is the perfect time to read Karon's work. "Welcome to Mitford" opens at the Green Room on Friday, Nov. 5. The play, based on the popular Jan Karon novels, was written by Robert Inman, the former WBTV news anchor-turned-writer, who has recently moved to Catawba County. The play focuses on the character Father Tim, the beloved bachelor rector of Lord's Chapel Church.

Since the Mitford series burst on the publishing scene in 1994, ladies of a certain age and a few gentlemen, have enjoyed the clean humor and bucolic flavor of these tales. Born in Lenoir, Jan Karon realized her dream of becoming a writer when she took a job at an ad agency. Then one day she gave it all up to write books, settling in Blowing Rock where she relished village life and wrote a column for the local paper, *The Blowing Rocket*. Using Blowing Rock as the model for Mitford, Karon is quick to assert that there are similar places all over the country, thus explaining the wide appeal: readers identify with the characters.

The Mitford phenomenon bridges generations as grandchildren trade and discuss books with their elders. Though criticized as too syrupy by high-brow readers, no one can question that Karon has written the book on publishing success. Every one of her works has been a best-seller, and the Mitford marketing machine includes a line of ornaments, figurines, teapots and more.

Catawba County Library System offers downloadable books (including Mitford titles) from its website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library/> For details about Green Room performances, call 464-6583 or check on-line at <http://opoplayhouse.org/greenroom/>



A Service of Catawba County Government